(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for rural development in Panchayati Raj Institutions

†85. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for handing over the Centrally Sponsored Schemes meant for the rural development and the resources related to them to the Panchayati Raj Institutions directly;

(b) if so, by when the final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would also consider providing the amount directly to Panchayats so that they can get money on time?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) All Ministries operating Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been asked to review their schemes in the light of Article 243G read with the Eleventh Schedule with a view to incorporating into the Schemes the Constitutional provisions in this regard in letter and spirit.

(b) No time limits have been fixed for the completion of this exercise, which is an ongoing process.

(c) The National Common Minimum Programme provides for funds to be channeled to Panchayati Raj Institutions without diversion or delay, subject to strict monitoring.

Devolution of Powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions

86. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) when the Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Pooma Swaraj, as envisaged through the historic Panchayati Raj Legislation passed in the Parliament about twelve years ago, would result in devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions at grassroot level;

(b) whether the present persuasive methods being adopted during the last one decade through conferences/meetings with State Level Ministers/functionaries would help in achieving the purpose;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.